

**Minutes**  
**Oyster Creek TMDL Steering Committee**  
**December 14, 2006**

**Stakeholders Present:**

Al Abramczyk—Sugar Lakes Homeowners Association  
Jay Bragg—Brazos River Authority  
Millie Holifield (substituting for Scott Elmer)—City of Missouri City  
David Jalowy—Fort Bend County Drainage District  
Larry Kent—Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)  
Martha Martin—Imperial Sugar  
Lisa Rogers—Sierra Club  
Adam Smith (substituting for Howard Christian)—City of Sugar Land  
Joe Taylor—Quail Valley Utility District

**Stakeholders Absent:**

Tricia Bradbury—Keep Sugar Land Beautiful  
David Sauer—Gulf Coast Water Authority

**Others Present:**; Linda Broach and Casey Johnson—TCEQ; Stacie Henderson and Jessie Li—City of Sugar Land; Kendria Ray—Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board; John Ellis—Quail Valley Utility District; Jim Coody—Greater Houston Builders Assoc.; Mel Vargas—Parsons; Chad Richards—PBS&J; Michael Colloy—TDCJ; Gene Krejci—Storm Water Solutions, LP; Sarah Kresta—LAN; Tina Peha (spelling uncertain)—CDM

**Support Staff:** Cindy Hooper and Jason Leifester—TCEQ; Bing Du and Larry Hauck—TIAER.

**Administrative Issues**

The Upper Oyster Creek Dissolved Oxygen and Bacteria TMDL Watershed Steering Committee met Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-4:00 pm at the Sugar Land Eldridge Park Conference Room, 2511 Eldridge Road. Larry Hauck, TIAER, opened the meeting and self-introductions were made. The committee approved the minutes from the February 9, 2006 meeting.

**Status of Bacteria TMDL**

Jason Leifester provided an overview of events that had occurred at TCEQ within recent months that had delayed the meeting of all bacteria TMDL stakeholder committees and that had expedited the completion of the bacteria TMDL allocation for Upper Oyster Creek.

Cindy Hooper provided an overview of the general permit for storm water discharges from small municipal separate storm sewer systems (Phase II MS4), which would impact those areas of the Upper Oyster Creek watershed within the boundaries of the Urbanized

Area defined in the 2000 Census for the Houston Area. Ms. Hooper explained the present time schedule for finalization of the general permit for Texas and the due date of permit applications. She also explained the minimum technical requirements of the general permit and the requirement to reduce pollutants to the maximum extent practicable.

Dr. Hauck presented an overview of the Upper Oyster Creek bacteria TMDL including the bacteria assessment findings that confirmed the section 303(d) list containing nonsupport of contact recreation use for segment 1245, the findings of the bacteria source tracking study, and the steps in the bacteria load duration curve method. Dr. Hauck next provided the definition of the bacteria TMDL allocation and described the two hydrologically distinct reaches used in the allocation process (above and below Dam #3). The 73 % load reduction required for each allocation reach was presented, and the actual load allocation for the point and nonpoint sources was presented for both reaches. It was further discussed that existing disinfection methods already required at municipal wastewater treatments will result in effluents meeting assigned loading allocations as long as the disinfection method is properly operating. Mr. Leifester concluded the bacteria discussions by indicating that the stakeholder committee would be notified beforehand of the public comment period and public meeting on the actual TMDL.

#### **Use Attainability Analysis**

In response to a question from the February 2006 meeting, Dr. Hauck provided a statement on the implications of use attainability analysis (UAA) for the dissolved oxygen and bacteria TMDLs. He stated that a UAA in the late 1980s or early 1990s had resulted in the aquatic life use for Upper Oyster Creek being lowered from high to intermediate and that no further studies on the appropriate aquatic life would likely be considered. Regarding a recreation use UAA, he stated that a draft UAA was being developed by TCEQ and that a demonstration project of the UAA was to be performed in portions of the City of Houston. Mel Vargas elaborated on the recreation use UAA, and further indicated that it might be available for general application within Texas in roughly six years. Both Mr. Vargas and Dr. Hauck indicated that TCEQ's position is that bacteria TMDLs will not be delayed waiting on UAAs.

#### **Status of Dissolved Oxygen TMDL**

Dr. Hauck provided the status of the dissolved oxygen TMDL. He provided an overview of the relevant criteria and the results and findings of 24-hour dissolved oxygen assessment monitoring performed during the Index Period of years 2003, 2004, and 2005. The assessment confirmed nonsupport of the intermediate aquatic life use for many portions of Upper Oyster Creek. Dr. Hauck also provided an overview of the TMDL allocation process and introduced QUAL2K, which is the dissolved oxygen computer model to be applied to conduct the allocation process. The status of the model testing and verification process was presented by Dr. Hauck as well as the timing of the remaining steps in the dissolved oxygen TMDL.

#### **Meeting Wrap-up**

The meeting was concluded at approximately 4 PM, and it was stated that the next stakeholder meeting would likely occur in the late winter or early spring of 2007.